FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT

Southern Region - Region 8

Report No. 84-3-13 Date: July 23, 1984

AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY OF FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE ACTIVITY, JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, MOUNT ROGERS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, VIRGINIA

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Jefferson National Forest, Mount Rogers National Recreation Area

STATE: Virginia

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 172,374

DATE: 7/9/84

PERCENT COVERAGE: 100%

AIRCRAFT: Aero Commander

CREW: C. W. Dull, J. Ghent and Herman Walls

REPORT PREPARED BY: C. W. Dull

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this survey was to detect the presence of forest insect and disease activity on the Mount Rogers National Recreational Area. This aerial sketchmap survey was combined with an aerial photographic mission to provide photographic coverage of the spruce-fir type on Mount Rogers.

SURVEY RESULTS

Moderate to heavy defoliation of hardwoods was observed on areas indicated on the attached map. A total of 2,500 acres was be classified as moderate to heavy defoliation. Major concentrations of hardwood defoliation were observed in the Fox Creek area, west of Troutdale, Virginia. Another heavy concentration of hardwood defoliation was observed on the north side of Pine Mountain on both sides of Soloman Branch. Acreages for all areas observed are indicated on the map.

CONCLUSIONS

Hardwood defoliation was prevalent and locally heavy on the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Previous defoliation in this area has been caused by fall cankerworm, Alsophila pometaria (Harris). District personnel had already detected a great deal of the defoliation that was observed during this survey and should continue with their field surveillance activities to monitor the condition of the hardwood species that were affected. Much of the defoliated hardwoods had already refoliated. Forest Service personnel should be especially on the lookout for further decline and mortality of the hardwood in this area caused by additional stress such as drought and poor sites. Ground checks will be conducted during the week of July 23, 1984.

MOUNT ROGERS NA' 'AL RECREATION AREA

RESULTS OF AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY FOR FOREST PEST ACTIVITY - JULY 9, 1984